

**Preliminary Amendment of U.S. National Stage for International Application
PCT/EP2003/013922 Filed December 9, 2003**

In the Specification:

Please amend the English language translation submitted herewith of instant Specification, without prejudice, as follows:

Please delete all text above line 3 of page 1, including the heading "Field of the Invention" and replace the deleted matter with the following two new section headings, title of the invention, and cross reference data and section subheading:

--TITLE OF THE INVENTION

Method for Producing Conjugated Linoleic Acid

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims priority under 35 USC § 365 from International Application PCT/EP2003/013922, filed on December 9, 2003, which claims priority from German Application No. 102 59 157.1, filed on December 18, 2002.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Technical Field--

At page 1, line 7, please delete the heading "Prior Art" and replace it with the following subheading:

--Background Art--

At page 2, line 19, please insert the following new section heading and new paragraph:

--BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

This invention provides a high yield process for the production of conjugated linoleic acid having a high degree of conjugated double bonds, purity and cold temperature stability, which process comprises

(a) isomerizing linoleic acid lower alkyl esters containing 1 to 5 carbon atoms in a linear or

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branched alkyl chain in the presence of an alkali metal alcoholate to yield highly conjugated linoleic acid esters,

- (b) saponifying the highly conjugated linoleic acid esters to yield the highly conjugated linoleic acids, and
- (c) crystallizing the highly conjugated linoleic acids one or more times.--

At page 2, line 20, please delete the section heading "Description of the Invention", and insert the following new section heading in its place:

--DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION--

At page 8, line 1, please delete "**CLAIMS**", and replace it with:
--What is claimed is:--.

On a separate, new page 9, please add the following new section heading and paragraph containing an Abstract of the Disclosure:

--ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention relates to a process for the production of conjugated linoleic acid, in which (a) linoleic acid lower alkyl esters containing 1 to 5 carbon atoms in a linear or branched alkyl chain are isomerized in the presence of alkali metal alcoholates, (b) the then conjugated linoleic acids are released from the ester after saponification, and (c) the free linoleic acids are subjected to crystallization. The crystallization step of said method provides a cost-effective option for producing conjugated linoleic acids with a high purity and excellent storage stability, in particular in low temperatures.--